

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 15-178V
Filed: August 25, 2017

* * * * *

BRITTANY GREEK, as Parent, Guardian and Next Friend of CTG, a minor	*	UNPUBLISHED
Petitioner,	*	
v.	*	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,	*	
Respondent.	*	

* * * * *

*Erin Juzapavicus, Esq., Milam Howard et al., P.A., Jacksonville, FL, for petitioner.
Adriana Teitel, Esq., U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

DECISION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS¹

Roth, Special Master:

On February 25, 2015, Brittany Greek (“Ms. Greek” or “petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program² on behalf of her minor child, C.T.G. Petitioner alleges that C.T.G. developed bilateral sensorineural hearing loss as a result of receiving a measles-mumps-rubella (“MMR”) vaccination on February 29, 2012. *See* Petition (“Pet.”), ECF No. 1. On December 21, 2016, the undersigned issued a Decision awarding compensation to petitioner based on the parties’ stipulation. *See* Decision, ECF No. 37.

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), a party has 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information, that satisfies the criteria in 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B). Further, consistent with the rule requirement, a motion for redaction must include a proposed redacted decision. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within the requirements of that provision, I will delete such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

On July 24, 2017, petitioner filed a Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Motion for Fees, ECF No. 41. Petitioner requests attorneys' fees in the amount of \$17,174.00 and attorneys' costs in the amount of \$9,137.35, for a total amount of \$26,311.35. Motion for Fees, Ex. A, at 16-17. Petitioner filed supplemental documentation in support of her requested costs on August 8, 2017. ECF No. 42. In accordance with General Order #9, petitioner filed a signed affidavit affirming that petitioner did not incur any out of pocket expenses. ECF No. 42.

On August 10, 2017, respondent filed a response to petitioners' Motion for Fees. Response, ECF No. 43. Respondent provided no specific objection to the amount requested or hours worked, but instead, "respectfully recommend[ed] that the Special Master exercise her discretion and determine a reasonable award for attorneys' fees and costs." *Id.* at 3. Petitioner did not file a reply.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of "reasonable attorneys' fees" and "other costs." § 15(e)(1). Based on the reasonableness of petitioner's request, the undersigned GRANTS petitioner's motion for attorneys' fees and costs.³

Accordingly, the undersigned **awards the total of \$26,311.35**,⁴ representing reimbursement for attorneys' fees in the amount of \$17,174.00 and costs in the amount of \$9,137.35, in the form of a check made payable jointly to petitioner and petitioner's counsel, Erin Juzapavicus, Esq. The Clerk of the Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this Decision.⁵

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Mindy Michaels Roth
Mindy Michaels Roth
Special Master

³ I have made no determination as to counsel's hourly rate in this matter; I merely conclude that the total sums requested seem reasonable and appropriate.

⁴ This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, § 15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. *See generally Beck v. Sec'y of Health & Human Servs.*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

⁵ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.